

Application No. 09/961,412

Art Unit 1714

January 28, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

In the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-17 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of this amendment because the amendment is supported by the present specification at, for example, page 15 (paragraph [0015]).

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the only rejection and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for asserted lack of written description. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The disputed claim language is no longer recited. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

No other outstanding issues remain.

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Conclusion

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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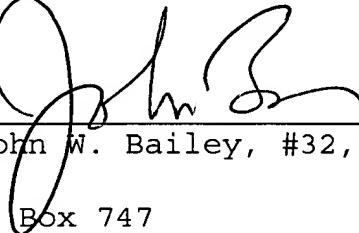
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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